(b) what action has been taken so far; and

(c) what decisions have been taken in regard to their employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) While, the legal process of merger of Air India and Indian Airlines into a new company called the National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) has been completed, the complete merger of the two airlines is likely to be achieved over 18 to 24 months.

(c) Due care has been given to the interest of the Employees in the Scheme of Amalgamation approved by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. All employees of the erstwhile Indian Airlines Limited and Air India Limited have become employees of NACIL without any breach or interruption of service and on terms and conditions not less favourable then those applicable to them on the date of amalgamation. A-3-tier Grievance Redressal Machinery has also been put into place to address employee grievances.

Congestion at Airports

1492. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the airports in general and the airports in metro cities in particular are very much crowded and congested;

(b) whether it is a fact that the existing infrastructural facilities are totally inadequate and are unable to absorb the unpreacedented inflow of passengers on the one side and the entry of number of private operators on the other;

(c) what are the short term/long term measures to tide over the situtation; and

(d) whether there would be a time frame before which the magnitude of the problem can be mitigated and managed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Due to the unprecedented surge in the traffic during the last three years, there is a limitation of airports infrastructure, especially at Delhi and Mumbai airports. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has initiated major development works and necessary projections have already been made in the 11th Five Year Plan.

To cope up with the spurt in air traffic, following specific actions have been/are being taken-Construction of new terminals, expansion of existing terminals, Construction of additional aircraft parking stands for over night parking, Construction of new rapid exist and parallel taxiways to enhance runway capacity, introduction of new ATC procedures for simultaneous use of both runways at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) and Chhatrapati Shivaji International (CSI) Airports, posting of additional ATC officers in ATC units, ban on general aviation and during peak hours at IGI and CSI Airports, modernisation and development of IGI and CSI Airports through Joint Venture Companies and Construction of Greenfield airports at Bangalore and Hyderabad in Public Private Partnership.

Services at Delhi Airport

1493. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that services at the Delhi airport have deteriorated further after privatisation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that space, which was kept for the seating of passengers, has been converted into shops, restaurants, etc. thereby causing great discomfort to the passengers; and

(c) what action Government is contemplating against the private operator?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. On the contrary the seating capacity at airport has been increased. About 1000 sofa-seats and chairs have been installed.

(c) Does not arise.

Shutting down of ATC at Mumbai Airport

1494. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was an Airport Traffic Control (ATC) shut down for 10 minutes on the 3rd October, 2007 leading to chaos and dangerous scenario at Mumbai airport as reported in media recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government will take to ensure that such scenario does not re-occur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The power supply to Automation System was affected for the one minute on 3.10.2007 and immediately after that the restoration was done. Due to no power imput, the computers used for Automation System went off. After restoration of power supply, the computers were rebooted which took about 12 minutes. Thus the systems was restored in 13 minutes. Other Communication, Navigational and Radar facilities were working normal during the period.

(c) Power supply problem has been investigated and short term/long term corrective measures have already been initiated and they are under implementation.

Encroachments at Hyderabad Airport

1495. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal encroachments on land of the existing Hyderabad airport are hampering its proposed expansion;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such expansion of the existing airport is necessary to withstand the competition from new upcoming airport;

(c) whether it is also a fact that despite repeated correspondence to the State Government from the Centre, the encroachments still persist;

(d) whether the steps taken by the State Government in clearing the encroachment is adequate; and

(e) if not, what further steps are being considered by the Centre/

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) In view of the decision to discontinue commercial operations at the existing airport once the new international airport at Shamshabad, Hyderabad, becomes operational there is no proposal to expand the existing Hyderabad airport. However, illegal encroachments do exist on the land of Airports Authority of India (AAI) at the existing Hyderabad airport.